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FOR ACTION

RECOMMENDATION TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

UNICEF Maurice Pate Award

SUMMARY

The Executive Director recommends that, for 1996, the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award be granted to the Centre régional pour le développement et la santé (CREDESA) (Regional Centre for Health and Development) of Benin, and that the Executive Board approve an allocation of $25,000 from general resources for this purpose.

* E/ICEF/1996/9.

1. Nominations for the 1996 UNICEF Maurice Pate Award were invited from Executive Board member Governments, UNICEF offices and National Committees for UNICEF. A total of 21 nominations were received as follows: six from Africa, two from the Americas and the Caribbean, seven from Asia, five from Europe, and one from the Middle East and North Africa.

2. The nominations for the 1996 award were discussed by the Bureau on 19 January 1996. After a careful review of all the nominations, the Bureau endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Director that the 1996 Maurice Pate Award be conferred to the Centre régional pour le développement et la santé (CREDESA) (Regional Centre for Health and Development) of Benin for its work in community financing and primary health care (PHC).

3. CREDESA was established in 1983 as a result of the momentum created by the Alma Ata Conference on Primary Health Care. The moving force behind CREDESA is Professor Eusebe Alihounou, its founder and leader. He is also the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Head of the University Clinic of Gynaecology and Obstetrics.

4. CREDESA is a centre for research, training and services in PHC and low-cost, grass-roots development. Over the years it has served as a training institution for health personnel from many countries of the west and central African subregion. Health professionals, students and other academics in public health from outside of Africa also have benefited from the experience of CREDESA in community and public health approaches. In addition, the organization also supports the Regional Institute for Public Health of Cotonou, financed by the World Health Organization (WHO), through the training of health personnel working towards a masters' degree in public health. As part of its research activities, CREDESA has enabled African health professionals from the subregion to develop and test community-based health systems. A major contribution was the recent research carried out on the impact of the devaluation of the franc of the African Financial Community on health services in Benin.

5. The major accomplishment of CREDESA is perhaps the early pioneering work done in the context of the applied research project in Pahou, Benin. The project was among the first to clearly demonstrate that building partnerships with communities was key to revitalizing basic health services. Its work has enabled the development of a model for revitalizing peripheral health services through community financing and co-management. The lessons learned from the Pahou project were central to shaping Benin's national health policy and inspiring the launching of the Bamako Initiative, the principles of which are now being applied in over 40 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The Initiative is widely recognized as a major strategy for expanding and sustaining PHC.

6. The Centre also was instrumental in the development of microplanning and monitoring systems that enable district health teams and community representatives to measure progress and manage basic services efficiently using the following key indicators: availability; accessibility; utilization; and effective coverage. The system has now been adopted in many countries implementing the principles of the Bamako Initiative.

7. Furthermore, the Centre has used its knowledge and experience to promote an integrated district-based approach to managing health and development. This work was undertaken in collaboration with a cross-section of interested partners, from both within and outside Africa. The strength of this approach is its intersectoral nature. The programme includes youth education and the promotion of income-generating activities through credit to women's groups.

8. The quality of the work and the professional approach of the CREDESA team was instrumental in generating innovative ideas for reforming health policies and mobilizing resources for health. This has ensured the interest, respect and collaboration of regional and international institutions which view CREDESA as a major partner in public health in Africa.

9. Through the publication of articles and reviews, CREDESA has been able to share worldwide its technical experiences, as well as the results of its research and evaluations in the areas of community health, family planning in rural areas, nutrition and PHC financing. By documenting its activities, CREDESA has strengthened its own capacity to critically analyse the experiences, as well as to synthesize the salient findings for wider dissemination.

10. The importance of the work being carried out by CREDESA has been recognized internationally as making an invaluable contribution to developing a sustainable approach to community-based health care.

Background of the Award

11. At a special session on 11 November 1965, the Executive Board approved the recommendation of the Executive Director that the Nobel Peace Prize money received by UNICEF be used to establish a fund in memory of Maurice Pate, the first Executive Director of UNICEF (E/ICEF/537). Approval in principle was also given to a suggestion that the fund be used to strengthen the training or experience of people serving in child welfare-related fields in countries with which UNICEF was cooperating. It was believed that a memorial fund which contributed actively to the general purpose of UNICEF would have particularly appealed to Mr. Pate.

12. In May 1966, the Board approved a plan submitted by the Executive Director (E/ICEF/542, paras. 76-83) for a memorial fund that would give recognition to the value of regional training facilities in fields benefiting children. Each year the fund would honour an institution in a developing country which adapted and offered its services to people from countries in the region. The institution selected would be given some modest assistance to strengthen its services to other developing countries.

13. By the end of 1978, the original funding and contributions for this Award were exhausted and, in 1979, the Executive Board approved the continuation of the Award from general resources (E/ICEF/P/L.1906 (REC)).

14. At its 1988 session, the Executive Board approved the recommendation that the Board confer annually the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award, as detailed in document E/ICEF/1988/P/L.37, for extraordinary and exemplary leadership in, and contribution to, the advancement of the survival, protection and development of children, whether on a national, regional or global scale. The Award could be conferred upon an institution, organization or individual with or without government affiliation. A timetable and procedures for the nomination and selection process were to be established by the secretariat (see E/ICEF/1988/13, annex I, paras. 45-47, and decision 1988/9).

15. By broadening the criteria for recognition to include (a) achievements on behalf of children, (b) provision of resources to further those achievements and (c) the creation of examples lending themselves to emulation, the Executive Board can use the Award to encourage significant efforts on behalf of children. While encouraging leadership for children by individuals, the monetary benefits

of the Award can be used to further relevant activities, whether training, experience exchange or direct programme activity.

16. The Executive Board reviewed and revised the selection process and criteria in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1994. The latest procedures and criteria as approved by the Board are contained in document E/ICEF/1994/L.16. According to those procedures, nominations shall be sought from the Governments of Board member countries, UNICEF representatives, regional directors and other secretariat offices and National Committees for UNICEF, and the Bureau shall review all nominations. The Award may not be conferred upon any Government or head of State or Government or upon any United Nations organization or official. The main criteria for the Award are: (a) extraordinary and exemplary leadership in, and contribution to, the advancement of the survival, protection and development of children; (b) innovative and inspirational work; (c) action on a national or regional scale with the potential for emulation; and (d) action that serves to encourage voluntary and grass-roots activities. Lastly, due regard shall be given to equitable geographical balance.

17. The UNICEF Maurice Pate Award has been given as follows:

Year	Institution	Region
Prior to 1980	Various institutions	Africa, Asia, the Americas and Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, industrialized countries and global
1981	College of Health Sciences, Bahrain	Middle East and North Africa
1982	University of the West Indies (regional institution)	Americas and the Caribbean
1983	Pan-African Institute for Development	Africa
1984	International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh	Global
1985	National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, India	South Central Asia
1986	The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Global
1987	The Catholic Church of El Salvador	Americas and the Caribbean
1988	Pembinaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga (Family Welfare Movement), Indonesia	East Asia and Pakistan
1989	Madame Suzanne Mubarak, Egypt	Middle East and North Africa
1990	Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti, Nigeria	West and Central Africa
1991	Child-to-Child Trust, United Kingdom	Industrialized countries
1992	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, Bangladesh	South Asia
1993	The People and State of Ceara, Brazil	Americas and the Caribbean
1994	All-China Women's Federation, China	East Asia and the Pacific
1995	Professor Ihsan Dogramaci, Turkey	Central and Eastern Europe/ Commonwealth of Independent States/Baltic States

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